

Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC 18 2009

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Federal-State Joint Board on	)	
Universal Service	)	WC Docket No. 09-197
	)	
NEP Cellcorp, Inc.	)	CC Docket No. 96-45
	)	
Application for Designation as an	)	
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier	)	
in the State of Pennsylvania	)	
_____	)	

**COMPLIANCE FILING OF NEP CELLCORP, INC.**

NEP Cellcorp, Inc. ("NEP"), by its attorneys, and pursuant to Section 54.209 of the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC" or "Commission") Rules<sup>1</sup> and Order in the above-referenced proceedings designating NEP as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC"),<sup>2</sup> hereby submits information regarding: (1) its progress towards meeting its quality improvement plan; (2) the number of outages lasting at least thirty minutes in NEP's service area; (3) the number of requests for service from potential customers that were unfulfilled for the past year; (4) the number of complaints per 1,000 handsets or lines; and (5) applicable ETC certifications.

NEP, a Commercial Mobile Radio Service ("CMRS") carrier serving Susquehanna County and other rural areas of northeast Pennsylvania, was granted ETC status for several of the

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<sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.209.

<sup>2</sup> *In re Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Alltel Communications, Inc., et al. Petitions for Designation as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers, RCC Minnesota, Inc. and RCC Atlantic, Inc. New Hampshire ETC Designation Amendment*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Order, FCC 08-122, ¶¶ 22, 26 and 36 (May 1, 2008) ("ETC Order").

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study areas requested in its petition.<sup>3</sup> In July 2008, NEP filed a petition to amend its ETC designation to include NEP as a designated ETC for the entire study area of rural telephone company and NEP parent company, The North-Eastern Pennsylvania Telephone Company ("NE PAT").<sup>4</sup> The Commission had previously denied ETC status for the NE PAT study area because it held that NEP was providing only partial coverage in the wire centers of Clifford and Forest City. At that time, the Commission was not aware of an informal arrangement with T-Mobile allowing NEP's signal to extend into T-Mobile's licensed area, allowing NEP to serve the entire Clifford and Forest City wire centers. NEP has since memorialized this consent agreement with T-Mobile allowing for the aforementioned border extension and NEP's Amendment discussing this agreement currently remains pending before the Commission.

Recently, NEP has initiated efforts to further bolster its wireless coverage as it faces bandwidth constraints and increased demand for voice and data traffic in Susquehanna County. NEP recently filed an Ex Parte Letter seeking the Commission's assistance with obtaining the rights to additional spectrum within NEP's coverage area that is currently being warehoused.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> *In re Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Alltel Communications, Inc., et al. Petitions for Designation as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers, NEP Cellcorp, Inc., Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Pennsylvania*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Petition of NEP Cellcorp, Inc. to be Designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (June 7, 2007) ("Petition").

<sup>4</sup> *In re Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Alltel Communications, Inc., et al. Petitions for Designation as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers, NEP Cellcorp, Inc., Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Pennsylvania*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Petition of NEP Cellcorp, Inc. to Amend Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Pennsylvania (July 17, 2008) ("Amendment").

<sup>5</sup> *Fostering Innovation and Investment in the Wireless Communications Market, Wireless Competition Docket*, GN Docket No. 09-157, WT Docket No. 09-66, Ex Parte Letter (November 30, 2009).

NEP intends to use the additional spectrum to enhance its existing coverage by offering 3G mobile broadband voice and data services that its rural customers demand.

To date, NEP has refrained from submitting line count reports for high-cost universal service support which it is eligible to receive since high-cost support in the areas where the FCC designated NEP as an ETC is nominal and the majority of support that will be available to NEP is in the NE PAT study area. As soon as the NE PAT study area at issue before the Commission is resolved, NEP will begin to seek universal service support to fund the further deployment of its wireless services. Such support would be especially valuable if NEP's recent effort to acquire fallow spectrum in NEP's rural coverage areas is successful.

#### **I. Quality Improvement Plan**

NEP has neither requested nor received universal service support over the past year while it awaits resolution of its Amendment. Accordingly, NEP has delayed full adoption of its quality improvement plan pending resolution of the NE PAT issue pertaining to NEP's ETC designation. Nevertheless, NEP has used its existing resources to deploy and expand its robust wireless voice and data coverage to its rural customers to the full extent possible. Additionally, and as noted above, NEP faces bandwidth constraints in its coverage area and is seeking additional spectrum to enhance wireless service to its rural customers. NEP is investing in upgrades in its service area in expectation that future high-cost support will be available to help pay off these network improvements. A map of NEP's coverage area is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

#### **II. Number of Service Outages**

NEP did not experience any service outages lasting at least 30 minutes over the past year.

### **III. Number of Unfulfilled Service Requests**

NEP has not had any unfulfilled service requests from potential customers over the past year.

### **IV. Number of Complaints Per 1,000 Handsets**

NEP is not aware of and did not receive any complaints filed with the FCC or the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission over the past year.

### **V. Certifications**

NEP has neither requested nor received universal service support over the past year while it awaits resolution of its Amendment. Nevertheless, NEP certifies that it: (1) complies with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules; (2) is able to function in emergency situations; and (3) offers a local usage plan comparable to that offered by the incumbent LEC in the relevant service areas. NEP also acknowledges that the Commission may require NEP to provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event that no other ETC is providing equal access within the service area.

For any additional information regarding NEP's ETC compliance, please contact the undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

**NEP CELLCORP, INC.**

By: 

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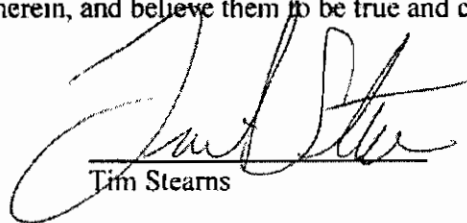
Its Attorneys

Dated: December 18, 2009

### **Declaration of Tim Stearns**

I, Tim Stearns, do hereby declare under penalty of perjury the following:

1. I am the Vice President of Operations of NEP Cellcorp, Inc.
2. I have read the foregoing "Compliance Filing of NEP Cellcorp, Inc." I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth therein, and believe them to be true and correct.

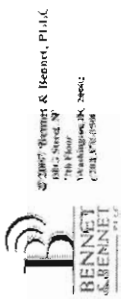
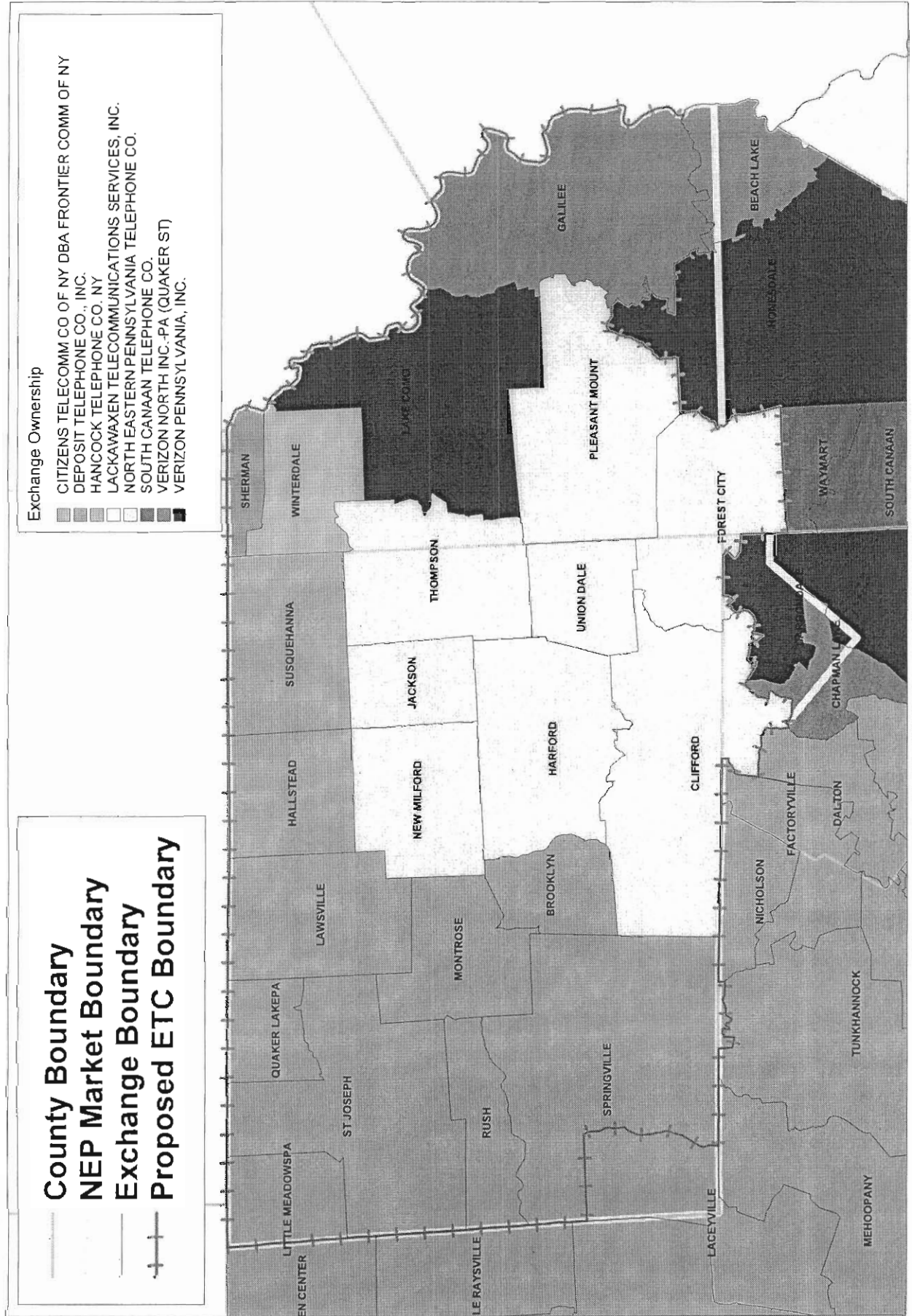


Tim Stearns

12-17-2009  
Date

**NEP Cellcorp, Inc.**

**EXHIBIT 1**





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December 18, 2009

**Via Hand Delivery**

Karen Majcher  
Vice President, High Cost and Low Income Division  
Universal Service Administrative Company  
2000 L Street, N.W., Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20036

**Re: October 1<sup>st</sup> Compliance Filing of NEP Cellcorp, Inc.  
WC Docket No. 09-197**

Dear Ms. Majcher:

NEP Cellcorp, Inc. ("NEP"), by its attorneys and pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") Order designating NEP as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC"), hereby submits its ETC post-designation compliance filing pursuant to Section 54.209 of the FCC's rules.

Also enclosed is a pink copy of NEP's compliance filing. Please date-stamp and return the pink copy to the courier.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Kenneth C. Johnson

Enclosures

cc: Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC (via hand delivery and electronic filing)  
Nicholas Degani, USAC (via email to [USACHcorders@usac.org](mailto:USACHcorders@usac.org))